

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 15-423V

Filed: January 12, 2017

* * * * *	* UNPUBLISHED
DAVID LIGHTBOURNE,	*
	* Special Master Sanders
Petitioner,	*
	* Joint Stipulation on Damages; Hepatitis A
v.	* Vaccine; Hepatitis B Vaccine;
	* Meningococcal Vaccine; Tetanus,
SECRETARY OF HEALTH	* Diphtheria, Acellular Pertussis ("Tdap")
AND HUMAN SERVICES,	* Vaccine.
	*
Respondent.	*
* * * * *	*

Andrew D. Downing, Van Cott & Talamante, PLLC, Phoenix, AZ, for Petitioner.

Christine M. Becer, United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION¹

On April 27, 2015, David Lightbourne ("Petitioner") filed a petition for compensation pursuant to the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.² 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (2012). Petitioner alleged that as a result of the Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B vaccines administered on August 6, 2012, and the Tetanus, Diphtheria, Acellular Pertussis ("Tdap"), and Meningococcal vaccines administered on May 15, 2014, he developed severe gastro-intestinal ("GI") distress, nerve pain, confusion, fatigue, disorientation, paresis, transient paralysis and loss of motor function. See Stipulation at ¶¶ 1-4, filed Jan. 12, 2017.

¹ Because this decision contains a reasoned explanation for the undersigned's action in this case, the undersigned intends to post this decision on the website of the United States Court of Federal Claims, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012). As provided by Vaccine Rule 18(b), each party has 14 days within which to request redaction "of any information furnished by that party: (1) that is a trade secret or commercial or financial in substance and is privileged or confidential; or (2) that includes medical files or similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy." Vaccine Rule 18(b).

² The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program is set forth in Part 2 of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755, codified as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (2012) (Vaccine Act or the Act). All citations in this decision to individual sections of the Vaccine Act are to 42 U.S.C.A. § 300aa.

On January 12, 2017, the parties filed a stipulation in which they state that a decision should be entered awarding compensation to Petitioner. Respondent denies that the aforementioned vaccines caused Petitioner's injury, or any other injury. Nevertheless, the parties agree to the joint stipulation, attached hereto as Appendix A. I find the stipulation reasonable and adopt it as the decision of the Court in awarding damages, on the terms set forth therein.

The parties stipulate that Petitioner shall receive the following compensation:

A lump sum of \$20,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) for injuries allegedly related to receipt of his covered injuries.

Id. at ¶ 8.

I approve the requested amount for Petitioner's compensation. Accordingly, an award should be made consistent with the stipulation.

In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the clerk of the court **SHALL ENTER JUDGMENT** in accordance with the terms of the parties' stipulation.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Herbrina D. Sanders
Herbrina D. Sanders
Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment is expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

2. Petitioner received the Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B vaccines on August 6, 2012, and the Tdap and Meningococcal vaccines on May 15, 2014.¹

4. Petitioner alleges that he suffered from severe GI distress, nerve pain, confusion, fatigue, disorientation, paresis, transient paralysis, and a loss of motor function as a result of receiving the Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Tdap, and Meningococcal vaccines.

5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages on his behalf as a result of his condition.

6. Respondent denies that the Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Tdap, or Meningococcal vaccines caused petitioner to suffer from his alleged severe GI distress, nerve pain, confusion, fatigue, disorientation, paresis, transient paralysis, or a loss of motor function or any other injury or his current condition.

7. Maintaining their above-stated positions, the parties nevertheless now agree that the issues between them shall be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding the compensation described in paragraph 8 of this Stipulation.

8. As soon as practicable after an entry of judgment reflecting a decision consistent with the terms of this Stipulation, and after petitioner has filed an election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services will issue the following vaccine compensation payment:

A lump sum of \$20,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) for injuries allegedly related to receipt of his covered vaccines.

9. As soon as practicable after the entry of judgment on entitlement in this case, and after petitioner has filed both a proper and timely election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), and an application, the parties will submit to further proceedings before the special master to award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in proceeding upon this petition.

10. Petitioner and his attorney represent that compensation to be provided pursuant to this Stipulation is not for any items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), to the extent that payment has been made or can reasonably be expected to be made under any State compensation programs, insurance policies, Federal or State health benefits programs (other than Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.)), or by entities that provide health services on a pre-paid basis.

¹ On May 15, 2014, petitioner also received the non-covered Pneumovax vaccine.

11. Payment made pursuant to paragraph 8 of this Stipulation and any amounts awarded pursuant to paragraph 9 of this Stipulation will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i), subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

12. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees and litigation costs, and past unreimbursed expenses, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation will be used solely for the benefit of petitioner as contemplated by a strict construction of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) and (d), and subject to the conditions of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g) and (h).

13. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, petitioner, in his individual capacity, and on behalf of his heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, does forever irrevocably and unconditionally release, acquit and discharge the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from any and all actions or causes of action (including agreements, judgments, claims, damages, loss of services, expenses and all demands of whatever kind or nature) that have been brought, could have been brought, or could be timely brought in the Court of Federal Claims, under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 et seq., on account of, or in any way growing out of, any and all known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected personal injuries to or death of petitioner resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the Hepatitis A and B vaccines administered on August 6, 2012, or the Tdap and Meningococcal vaccines administered on May 15, 2014, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about April 27, 2015, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 15-423V.

14. If petitioner should die prior to entry of judgment, this agreement shall be voidable upon proper notice to the Court on behalf of either or both of the parties.

15. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation or if the Court of Federal Claims fails to enter judgment in conformity with a decision that is

in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, then the parties' settlement and this Stipulation shall be voidable at the sole discretion of either party.

16. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete negotiated settlement of liability and damages claimed under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended, except as otherwise noted in paragraph 9 above. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any payment or to do any act or thing other than is herein expressly stated and clearly agreed to. The parties further agree and understand that the award described in this Stipulation may reflect a compromise of the parties' respective positions as to liability and/or amount of damages, and further, that a change in the nature of the injury or condition or in the items of compensation sought, is not grounds to modify or revise this agreement.

17. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Tdap, or Meningococcal vaccines caused petitioner to suffer from severe GI distress, nerve pain, confusion, fatigue, disorientation, paresis, transient paralysis, or a loss of motor function or any other injury or his current condition.

18. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns.

END OF STIPULATION

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Respectfully submitted,


PETITIONER:


DAVID LIGHTBOURNE

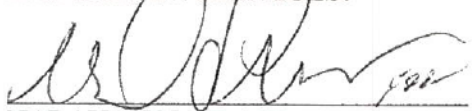
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Dated: 1/12/17